

CityU Held the Closing Ceremony for the 7th Master of Laws Programme for Chinese Judges

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CityU has successfully held the Closing Ceremony for the 7th Master of Laws Programme for Chinese Judges in the afternoon of 3 July 2017. Officiating guests of the Ceremony included **Prof. HUANG Yongwei**, President, National Judges College; **Prof. Way KUO**, President and University Distinguished Professor, CityU; **The Honorable Martin LIAO Cheung-kong**, Non-Official Member of Executive Council, The Government of the HKSAR; **Mr. Wesley WONG, SC**, Solicitor General, Department of Justice, The Government of the HKSAR; **Mr. LIU Chunhua**, Deputy Director-General, Counsel, Department of Law, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR; **Mr. Paul LAM, SC**, Chairman, The Hong Kong Bar Association; **Mr. Thomas Shiu Tsung SO**, President, The Law Society of Hong Kong; **Dr. Kennedy WONG, BBS, LLD, DCL, JP**, Managing Partner, Philip K H Wong, Kennedy Y H Wong & CO.; **Mr. DU Mao**, Chairman of the Board, China Legal Service (H.K.) Ltd.; **Prof. Geraint HOWELLS**, Dean and Chair Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law, CityU and **Prof. LIN Feng**, Director, Centre for Judicial Education and Research & Associate Dean, School of Law, CityU.





Prof. Geraint Howells delivered the welcoming speech at the Closing Ceremony. He recognized the judge students' achievement in the past year of study and wished them every success after returning to their position in mainland courts.

Prof. Huang Yongwei said the 23 Chinese judge students are outstanding representatives of the young judges in Mainland China. The CityU LLM brings a strong advantage to their profile and prospects for their career. Given the tremendous success of the Chinese Judges Programme, the National Judges College and CityU will strive to recruit more Chinese judges specializing in handling foreign cases to study at CityU.



Offering his congratulations to the graduands, Prof. Way Kuo urged them to exercise self-discipline in handling every case at work.

Mr. Wesley Wong felt glad to have welcomed the class in October 2016, and now witness the achievement of the 23 participants completing the Programme. From now on, the path lying ahead for them will forever be different, because what is expected of them is now different.



Mr. Liu Chunhua said it made him excited to attend the Closing Ceremony for the 7th LLM Programme for Chinese Judges at the historical moment of the 20th Anniversary of the HKSAR. It is not an easy decision for the 23 Chinese judges to return to the campus and study common law in an English environment. They have manifested the evolution of the rule of law in China and built up a positive image of mainland judges in Hong Kong.

In Mr. Paul Lam's view, there are three reasons why the Chinese Judges Programmes are significant for both Hong Kong and the Mainland: first, the Chinese Judges Programmes promote mutual trust and understanding in the two legal systems; second, in the context of the Belt and Road Initiative, training on common law for Chinese judges gives confidence to countries in the common law jurisdiction to participate in the Initiative; third, Chinese judges play a very important role in promoting the rule of law and the judicial reform in China.



Mr. Thomas So shared his impression on the difference between Hong Kong's judicial system and that of the Mainland. He noted that both systems are unique and there is a lot that we can share with each other. Looking at the differences in both systems in a positive way enhances the interests of both Hong Kong and the Mainland. The Master of Laws Programme for Chinese Judges is successful in promoting and facilitating mutual trust and understanding in the two legal systems.

Dr. Kennedy Wong said the 23 Chinese judge students are among the best. Although the "One Country, Two System" policy has been successful in the past 20 years, there is still much work to do and more interactions between legal talents in the two systems will be vital.



Mr. Du Mao pointed out that as part of the legal training for judges in the Mainland, CityU's high-quality legal education has played an important role in improving judges' ability in handling foreign cases, enriching their knowledge and increasing exposure to common law. Meanwhile, a clear and straightforward message of the concept, system and practice of the rule of law in the Mainland is conveyed to the Hong Kong legal community via the Programme.

Judge Liang Ying, student representative of the class, expressed her gratitude to the National Judges College and the City University of Hong Kong on behalf of her fellow classmates. The Programme had not only equipped her with a good understanding in the logic of common law system, but more importantly, the one-year study has given her insights in her career to pursue excellence. The students will internalize what they have learnt at CityU and put it into practice to contribute to the judicial system in China.



Prof. Lin Feng expressed his gratitude to those who have supported and contributed to the Chinese Judges Programmes, including the National Judges College, Prof. Way Kuo and the CityU management, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the HKSAR, China Legal Service (Hong Kong) Ltd., the Hong Kong Judiciary, the Legislative Council, the Department of Justice, the Hong Kong Bar Association, the Law Society of Hong Kong, and the law firms and foundations sponsoring the Programmes. He also extended his special thanks to the London Mercantile Court and the Emory University for their efforts in making the Programmes even better. As the Ceremony came to a close, Prof. Lin Feng wished the graduands could become a bridge between different legal systems through mutual understanding and rational communication.